



TOWNtalk

A newsletter for Town of Chapel Hill employees



December 2009
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www.townofchapelhill.org

A Short Report

By Roger L. Stancil,
Town Manager

Happy New Year: We have a new Mayor, Mark Kleinschmidt, and three new Council members, Penny Rich, Gene Pease and Donna Bell. Congratulations to all of them. We look forward to working with them and the returning Council members to address the challenges facing our Town over the next few years.

Longevity Breakfast. We recently held our Longevity Breakfast during which we recognized those employees with more than 20 years of service to the Town. What an amazing leadership group they are! Working with all of you and with the kind of dedication and leadership these long term employees bring is one of the big reasons this is a great place to work. (See page 4 for a list of these employees.)

Healthcare. Another amazing group of Town employees is the 24 people who sit on the Healthcare Task Force, sorting through a lot of information and trying hard to represent you and your interests as we try to create a plan that will help us sustain the healthcare benefits of the Town in a way we can afford. Please stay in touch with your departmental representatives, and let them know what you think.

Employee Forum. The forum always does great work, and I applaud outgoing members for their hard work on your behalf. I also congratulate those who are taking their seats as they help us address concerns we have as Town employees. I especially appreciate their work in helping us think about Values that all of us can support in our everyday relationships with our fellow employees.

Sabrina Farrar

Housing Officer I

Joined Town: June 29, 1989

Teamwork is essential in the busy Housing Department. Sabrina's responsibilities include managing the public housing and transfer waiting lists, filling vacant apartments, overseeing the community service program which requires that all adults (unless exempted) in a household perform eight hours of service each month, and maintaining department web pages and publications.

Sabrina says, "If you have trust, cooperation, and put forth your best effort, it makes a good-functioning, healthy team." She says she has learned a lot from her co-workers, who are very helpful.

To Sabrina, the biggest challenge is not having enough housing for everyone who needs it. She enjoys helping people and getting to know people in the community, and she likes that her job gives her opportunities to be creative, like creating a calendar using artwork from children in the community.

Sabrina is very involved in Town committees, and has just started with the Employee Forum. She has served on a number of other committees, including web stewards, the Health Care Task Force and Employee Appreciation.

Sabrina lives in Hillsborough with her husband Wesley and has two sons, Andre and Torrell. Her first grandson, Elijah, joined the family in March, and Sabrina is enjoying being a "nana."

Sabrina is active in her church and was recently appointed to the Orange County

Value in the Spotlight

Teamwork

cooperative • mission-focused • strength shared decisions • consequence awareness relationships • enhancement of resources



Melanie Miller photo

Rape Crisis Board. She loves shopping, visiting New York and traveling. She just returned from a trip to Kenya in November, where she spent two weeks mentoring and counseling high school students, assisting with construction of a school, and giving out supplies and clothes.

In addition to her busy work and volunteer schedule, Sabrina is working on a bachelor's degree in social work from Barton College in Wilson, where she takes classes on weekends. She expects to finish in 2011.

Our Value: "Sabrina is a true team player. If there's a task that needs to be done, she will pitch right in. Many times she has become a team leader."

— Public Housing Director Tina Vaughn

COMING UP

Tuesday, Dec. 22: Flu shot clinic for employees, 6 a.m. to noon, Chapel Hill Transit

Dec. 24-28: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.

Friday, Jan. 1: Town Holiday. Most municipal offices will be closed.

Thursday, Jan. 28: Climbing Wall Dedication, 11 a.m., Chapel Hill Community Center

Friday, Jan. 15: Service Awards Reception



Residents celebrated the holiday spirit with the holiday parade on Dec. 12.

In Brief



In January, **Trish D'Arconte** (Stormwater Management) will begin a term as president of the North Carolina chapter of

the American Water Resources Association. She was elected in December 2007 and will serve three years (one year each as president-elect, president, and past-president).

Matt Lawrence (Fire) received a Village Pride award from WCHL Radio for his work promoting fire safety in Chapel Hill with programs like Keep the Wreath Green. This program aims to reduce fires during the holiday season. A wreath on Fire Station 1 is filled with green bulbs. For every residential fire before Jan. 1, a green bulb will be replaced with a red one. Please use holiday lights and candles and home appliances safely and help keep the wreath green.

Kenny Lennon and John French (Police) took 10 teens to an open house at NC Central University on Nov. 21 to learn more about what they would need to do to attend college. The group also organized a food drive and delivered the food for a complete turkey meal to three families.

On Nov. 11, the **Chapel Hill Police Department** partnered with University Mall and other local organizations to present Operation Medicine Cabinet, which provided a way to safely dispose of outdated or unused prescription medicine. The event collected 36 pounds of pills and about 40 pounds of liquid medication.



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 Melanie Miller



Public Works employees installed a 16-foot tall stainless steel artwork in front of Fire Station No. 1 at 403 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. This unique work is one of 11 outdoor sculptures featured in the Town of Chapel Hill's annual Sculpture Visions exhibition, organized by the Town's **Public Arts Office** and the Public Arts Commission. These sculptures will be on display until October of 2010.

Sculptor Carl Regutti's "Magno-lia Exotica" features an innovative "peacock" stainless steel that produces different hues and creates a remarkable movement of light and color across the firehouse lawn.



On behalf of the Town's Art in Parks program, **Jeff York** (Public Arts) accepted the 2009 Arts and Humanities Award from the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association. The award, which recognizes innovative and effective programs,

was presented at the 2009 NCRPA state conference, held in Winston-Salem on Nov. 17.

Town Holidays have been scheduled for 2010. Most municipal offices are closed on Town holidays.

- New Year's Day: Friday, Jan. 1
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day: Monday, Jan. 18
- Good Friday: Friday, April 2
- Memorial Day: Monday, May 31
- Independence Day: Monday, July 5
- Labor Day: Monday, Sept. 6
- Thanksgiving: Nov. 25-26
- Winter Holiday: Dec. 23-24, Dec. 27
- New Year's Day: Friday, Dec. 31

Flexible Spending Account election forms are due to Kelly Stokes by 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18.

An H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic will be held from 6:30 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Dec. 22. The vaccination is free to employees and family members over the age of 4 who have BCBS coverage. Those not covered by BCBS can purchase the vaccine for \$15. A second H1N1 Flu Shot Clinic will be held in early January. Please RSVP to Lynne Wade (HRD) at lwade@townofchapelhill.org or 967-2700 to ensure adequate supplies of the vaccine.

A survey of residents' opinions of Town services has been mailed this month. Conducting the survey is one of the Town Council's goals to help understand residents' perception of the services the Town provides.

The survey was sent to 2,000 randomly selected Chapel Hill households. Information: 969-5055 or publicaffairs@townofchapelhill.org

Chapel Hill ranks high on lists of "Best Commutes" and "Best Places to Raise a Child."

Chapel Hill ranked fifteenth in a November U.S. News and World Report list of cities where people have shorter commutes and more alternatives to driving. The average commute time for Chapel Hillians is 20.1 minutes, and 26.2 percent use non-car transportation to work.

Chapel Hill was chosen the best town to raise children in North Carolina in a Business Week list of "Best Places to Raise Your Kids." Factors considered include school performance, number of schools, diversity, job growth, museums, parks, and other amenities.

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Compliments



Van Bennett (Public Works Inspections) was commended by Donna Warner for outstanding service in helping to restore power to her home after a storm. "We live in a time when citizens view government as unresponsive and here was a person who was willing to give up his Friday evening to come way across town on my behalf. I believe this commitment to serving others should be recognized."

Annie Edwards (Transit) was complimented by Jennie Simchock for her great driving in the rain. "She was calm and got the passengers to their destinations safely and on time. She does a good job on the D-Express in the evenings."

Jeanne Tate (Business Management) and **Lance Norris** (Public Works) commended **Gary Mitchell** (Public Works) for his patience in dealing with difficulty in cashing a payroll check. Tate said, "He was calmly persistent and showed nothing but professionalism throughout what was a most frustrating ordeal... I was proud to work with him and appreciate his great attitude." Norris said, "I greatly appreciate your positive attitude and perseverance, which reflect positively on the department and speak to the manner in which we conduct our business. On behalf of myself, the other employees who tried to cash their checks last week, and the entire department, I commend you for a job well done."

Allison Worthy thanked **Parking Services** staff for reserving parking spaces for an event. "Thank you for taking care of us on Saturday. The hooded meters and cones were terrific!"

L. Ellen Bradley expressed her appreciation to **Communications and Public Affairs** for the Town's redesigned website. "It's attractive and easy to navigate... I know how much effort is required to create and maintain a user-friendly website, and I appreciate the efforts of the town staff."

SMT Notes

The following is a brief update of some of the items that were announced and have been discussed recently by the Senior Management Team (SMT). To stay up-to-date on Town news and activities, subscribe to Chapel Hill eNews by contacting pio@townofchapelhill.org.

Facilitative Leadership: On Feb. 11, facilitator Anne Davidson will lead a discussion with the SMT about teamwork, the stress of change and facilitative leadership.

Public Executive Leadership (PELA) and Municipal Administration courses: Town Manager Roger Stancil wants to make the final decision on who attends the courses after recommendations and discussion. Because there are limited spaces, he does not want individual employees to register themselves. He will email information on these courses as available.

Healthcare Task Force: Town Manager Roger Stancil gave an update of the progress of the employee group. Some change must occur to preserve healthcare benefits and retain current employees. We are working on this together in the interests of all who currently work for the

Town. Although the Town Manager will make the final decision on what is presented to Council, he wants employee input on this issue.

Safety: The NC League of Municipalities' Safety Assessment has been sent to all departments. Occupational health and safety officer Mike Beckman will provide a 30-day report to the Town Manager.

Orientation for New Council Members: An orientation session is set for Jan. 6. SMT members should save the date and await further details. After the initial orientation, new Council members will be offered short information sessions on specific topics: e.g., public safety, development, etc.

Community Survey: The Town will ask residents for their perception of Town services in the first survey conducted by the Town. The statistically valid survey is being administered by ETC Institute, a professional market research firm based in the Kansas City area.

Recycling

Curbside recycling will not be collected on Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25). If your recycling day falls on Christmas this year, your recycling will be collected on Saturday Dec. 26. Put your bins out by 7 a.m. as usual.

Cardboard left at the curb for recycling can be only three feet square with a 10-piece limit. If you have more, take it to a drop off site. It is illegal to throw out cardboard.

The Orange County landfill and solid waste convenience centers will be closed on Christmas Day and will re-open Saturday, Dec. 26. Recycling drop-off sites will be heavily used, so avoid the crowds if you can and wait until Monday to dump. Bins and dumpsters are more likely to be empty. Please flatten all cardboard, recycle non-metallic wrapping paper with mixed paper and squash metal cans and plastic bottles.

—Blair Pollock, Orange County Solid Waste

Green Tips

The Sustainable Operations and Services Team is assisting with a needs assessment for recycling resources in Town facilities. Orange County Solid Waste and Recycling provides recycling bins to the Town, including small blue bins for individual offices, large roll carts, paper and bottle/can recycling bins for meeting rooms and battery recycling bins.

Large roll carts and bins located in some common areas are collected by Orange County Solid Waste and Recycling. Please empty your small blue bins into large roll carts for collection.

For more information, contact your Sustainable Operations and Services Team representative or John Richardson at 969-5075 or jrichardson@townofchapelhill.org.

—John Richardson, Office of Sustainability

Employees Honored for Years of Service

Employees with 20 or more years of service by Nov. 30 and employees who retired during the current calendar year were honored at the Longevity Breakfast that was held on Dec. 4 at the Hargraves Community Center. Congratulations to all!

20 Years

Jackie Thompson (Housing)
Flo Miller (Manager)
Thomas Stroud (Parks and Recreation)
Dennis Jordan (Fire)
John McKerlie (Police)
Chuck Quinlan (Police)

21 Years

Troy Smith (Police)
Stanley Norwood (Transit)
Robin Clark (Police)
Jason McIntyre (Police)
Nancy Hayes (Transit)
Peter Barkley (Transit)
Henry Harris (Police)
Clint Thorpe (Transit)
Cheng-Yin Fan (Parks & Recreation)
Tom Bick (Public Works)
Diana Harris (Fire)
Victoria Madsen (Police)

22 Years

Brian Curran (Police)
Camelia Brooks-Brooks (Human Resource Development)
Terry Battle (Public Works)
Amy Edwards (Transit)
Jerry Neville (Public Works)
Chris Bradley (Fire)
Norman Clark (Fire)
Rick Ennis (Police)
Brenda Jackson (Transit)
Lafayette Poteat (Transit)
Don Wells (Transit)

23 Years

Charles Alston (Parking Services)
Jerry Battle (Engineering)
Robert Bosworth (Fire)
Donald Bradley (Police)
Yvonne Brown (Finance)
Robert Carden (Police)
Glenn Davis (Housing)
Rex Gibson (Police)
Andrew Jones (Public Works)
Doug Kelly (Fire)
Steve Kirkland (Public Works)
Annie Matthews (Transit)
Bob Overton (Police)

24 Years

Carol Baer (Library)
David Bonk (Planning)
Anthony Brooks (Police)
Ed Brooks (Police)
William Clark (Transit)
Jerrie Cole (Police)
J.B. Culpepper (Planning)
Bruce Heflin (Manager)
Ceberettia Hinton (Transit)
Ralph Karpinos (Attorney)
George Long (Housing)
Charles Mitchell (Public Works)
Teresa Oliver (Transit)
MC Russell (Engineering)
Lee Sparrow (Police)
Mike Taylor (Engineering)
Kathy Thompson (Library)
Mike Whitmore (Housing)
Kathye Williams (Police)
Larry Gentry (Public Works)
Kristi McClellan (Library)

25 Years

Mark Bayles (Library)
Cary Degraffenreidt (Public Works)
Douglas Fisk (Public Works)
James Jones (Public Works)
Joe Layton (Police)
Cap Mellon (Fire)
Tim Smith (Public Works)
William Thompson (Public Works)
Tina Vaughn (Housing)

26 Years

Barbara Gear (Transit)
Richard Goldston (Public Works)

27 Years

Beverly Baldwin (Transit)
Ernestine Garrett (Transit)

28 Years

Carmen Cole (Transit)
Stephen Porterfield (Fire)
Joe Sands (Police)
Larry Tucker (Engineering)

29 Years

Eva Cohn (Transit)
Joe Farrington (Public Works)
Elias Lack (Transit)
Bobby Pettiford (Inspections)
Frances Rapley (Library)
Tim Richardson (Library)
Garland Sawyer (Transit)
Annie Sharpe (Transit)
Bill Webster (Parks and Recreation)

30 Years

Randel Riggsbee (Public Works)

31 Years

Raymond Alestock (Public Works)
Thomas Mills (Transit)
Scott Simmons (Planning)

32 Years

Maggie Burnett (Public Works)
Iris Schwintzer (Transit)

33 Years

Charles Booth (Transit)
Louise Pettis (Inspections)
Richard Terrell (Public Works)

34 Years

Jim Huegerich (Police)
Larry Stroud (Public Works)

36 Years

Nate Davis (Parks and Recreation)

37 Years

Dayle Gibson (Public Works)

40 Years

Flora Parrish (Police)

Retirees

Paula Gibbs (Police)
Larry Cates (Transit)
Terrie Gale (Police)
Luther Daniel (Transit)
Kim Nguyen (Transit)
Paul Azzu (Transit)
David Damin (Transit)
Pat Burns (Police)
Ozetar "Snap" Gaskin (Public Works)
George Small (Public Works)
Norman Clark (Fire)
Ronald Teague (Transit)
Rodney Watson (Fire)
Mac Poteat (Transit)
Lloyd Ross (Public Works)
Decatur Cole (Transit)

A Service Awards reception will be held on Friday, Jan. 15, 2010, for employees who reached milestones between May 1 and Dec. 31, 2009.



Who's that under the beard?! Jeff Clark (Police) played Santa at the annual Community Watch Holiday Party at Hargraves Center.